

§ 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claim 1 for the pending claim 1:

I1
1. (Twice amended) A protein-polycation conjugate which is capable of forming, with a nucleic acid or nucleic acid analogue, a soluble complex which is absorbed into a human or animal cell, characterised in that the protein component of the conjugate is capable of binding to a cell surface protein other than a transferrin receptor expressed by a cell of a T-cell lineage, so that the complex formed is taken up into a cell which expresses a T-cell surface protein.

Please substitute the following claim 2 for the pending claim 2:

I2
2. (Once amended) The conjugate according to claim 1, characterised in that the protein component is a monoclonal antibody or a fragment thereof, directed against the T-cell surface protein.

Please substitute the following claim 8 for the pending claim 8:

I3
8. (Twice amended) The conjugate according to claim 2, characterised in that the protein component is an antibody in a form which is directly coupled to the polycation.

Please substitute the following claim 9 for the pending claim 9:

I4

9. (Twice amended) The conjugate according to claim 2, characterised in that the protein component is an antibody in a form bound by means of a protein A coupled to polycation.

Please substitute the following claim 10 for the pending claim 10:

I5

10. (Once amended) A Protein A-polycation conjugate for preparing the conjugate according to claim 9.

Please substitute the following claim 13 for the pending claim 13:

I6

13. (Once amended) The conjugate according to claim 1, characterised in that a polycation component is a synthetic homologous or heterologous polypeptide.

Please substitute the following claim 14 for the pending claim 14:

I7

14. (Once amended) The conjugate according to claim 13, characterised in that the polypeptide is polylysine.

Please substitute the following claim 17 for the pending claim 17:

I8

17. (Twice amended) A protein-polycation/nucleic acid complex which is absorbed into a human or animal cell, characterised in that a protein component of the conjugate is capable of binding to a cell surface protein other than the transferrin receptor expressed by

I8

a cell of the T-cell lineage, so that the complex formed is taken up in a cell which expresses a T-cell surface protein.

Please substitute the following claim 18 for the pending claim 18:

I9

18. (Twice amended) The complex according to claim 17, characterised in containing as a conjugate component one of the conjugates defined in claim 1.

Please substitute the following claim 19 for the pending claim 19:

I10

19. (Amended) The complex according to claim 17, characterised in additionally containing a non-covalently bound polycation, which may optionally be identical to the polycation of the conjugate, so that internalisation and/or expression of the nucleic acid achieved by the conjugate is increased.

Please substitute the following claim 20 for the pending claim 20:

I11

20. (Twice amended) The complex according to claim 17, characterised in containing a virus inhibiting nucleic acid.

Please substitute the following claim 28 for the pending claim 28:

I12

28. (Twice amended) The complex according to claim 20, characterised in containing an inhibiting nucleic acid in the form of a ribozyme, optionally together with a carrier RNA, or the gene coding therefor.

Please substitute the following claim 29 for the pending claim 29:

I13

29. (Once amended) The complex according to claim 28, characterised in containing a nucleic acid in the form of a genetic unit consisting of a tRNA-gene as carrier gene and a ribozyme gene arranged within this gene.

Please substitute the following claim 36 for the pending claim 36:

I14

36. (Twice amended) Process for introducing nucleic acid or acids into a cell which expresses a T-cell surface protein, by forming the complex defined in claim 17, which is preferably soluble under physiological conditions, from the protein-polycation conjugate defined in claim 1 and nucleic acid or acids, optionally in the presence of non-covalently bound polycation, and bringing the cell which expresses the T-cell surface protein, especially T-cell, into contact with this complex, optionally under conditions under which the breakdown of nucleic acid in the cell is inhibited.

Please substitute the following claim 38 for the pending claim 38:

I15

38. (Twice amended) Pharmaceutical preparation containing as active component one or more therapeutically or gene therapeutically active nucleic acids in the form of the complex defined in claim 17.

Please substitute the following claim 39 for the pending claim 39:

I16

39. (Once amended) The conjugate according to claim 1, characterized in that said protein is an anti-CD3 monoclonal antibody.

Please substitute the following claim 40 for the pending claim 40:

I17

40. (Once amended) The complex according to claim 17, characterized in that said protein is an anti-CD3 monoclonal antibody.

Please substitute the following claim 41 for the pending claim 41:

I18

41. (Once amended) The conjugate according to claim 1, characterised in that the protein component is an antibody against CD3.